

St. Elizabeth Church

Established 1875

1000 Eliot Street
Detroit, Michigan 48207
(313) 831-1356 Fax: (313) 831-8603

Fr. Norman P. Thomas, Pastor

“RE-OPENING” CHURCH & MASSES TO OUR PARISHIONERS The Lord is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!

Starting Sunday, May 31, 2020

Wearing a mask is required. Please bring yours.

Bring your own hand sanitizer if possible.

Sit only in designated pews.

Occupants not to exceed 60 persons and social distancing to be maintained.

Starting on Sunday, May 31, 2020, the Masses with parishioners will resume. Every Sunday at 12 noon.

For the Parish Reopening we have many additional PROTOCOLS that all parishioners must follow in order to attend Mass. These procedures will be re-evaluated weekly. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through the details below. Thank you for your patience and compliance.

Please realize that while we are excited to be returning to public liturgy, COVID-19 is still with us. As such, attending Mass will bring with it certain risks. We will try to moderate those risks by safety protocols. **Those who are 65 and over or those with high-risk health conditions may choose to remain home.** This is the population that is most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Of course, **those who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not enter a church until released to do so by their health care professional.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

ATTENDANCE CAPACITY & SEATING

For now, Masses will be limited to 25% capacity across the Archdiocese.

For St. Elizabeth, this equates to 60 in our main sanctuary per Mass.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (*65-years and over and those with high-risk health conditions*) **MAY CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT HOME** and not attend Mass in person for their own safety.

Wash your hands.

Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.

Bring your own mask and, if possible, your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.

St. Elizabeth does not have a current supply to provide for all congregants.

MASS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.

Arrive early before Mass and observe social distancing.

The church will be seated to fill the open pews from front to back.

Every two pews will be closed with no more than 3 people to a pew with social distancing unless they are living together in the same household.

You may be sharing a pew with another household, but 6 feet social distance is required between the households.

The holy water fonts will remain empty.

If we reach capacity for a given Mass, NO MORE congregants will be granted entry or seats. No one wants to ‘deny’ you access to the Mass; however, this is to accommodate the CDC, Michigan State, and Archdiocesan guidelines for public assembly. Please remain respectful with those tasked with ushering.

MASS PROCEDURES

There will be no altar servers, choirs and only 2 Ministers of Service, at the Mass.

NO Offertory procession with the Gifts will take place

Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.

Please refrain from all physical contact between households.

No holding hands during the Lord's Prayer

No Sign of Peace

Baskets will not be used during the offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in an offering basket as you exit the church.

HOLY COMMUNION & MASS DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

Holy Communion will be distributed as normal, from the main aisle, but there will be only 1 single file line. Ushers will dismiss each pew.

Holy Communion will be distributed by Fr. Thomas and one minister.

Holy Communion will be offered by the Body of Christ. The Precious Blood will ***not*** be offered to the congregation. *As Catholics, we believe that Christ is fully present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity even when we only receive either the Body or Blood of Christ at Mass. You are also not required to receive each time you attend Mass. You may continue with 'Spiritual Communion' if you prefer.*

Archbishop Vigneron recommends Holy Communion be received by the hand or by the tongue. *If you prefer to receive Communion by the tongue we ask that you receive communion last.*

You may not receive communion wearing gloves

Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is required. *(Please, bring your own).*

MASS FINAL PROCESSION & DEPARTURE

After the final Mass blessing, parishioners must remain in their pews.

Pews will be dismissed in an orderly fashion starting in the front of the church and then moving back.

Ushers will dismiss each pew.

You can drop your weekly offertory in the basket by the exit as you depart.

Fr Thomas will not shake hands and will greet people maintaining social distancing.

Please maintain social distancing when the Mass is ended and outside as you go to your vehicle.

CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES

St. Elizabeth will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices including

cleaning pews after every Mass.

Disinfecting bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces will occur.

Parish staff and Ushers will be required to wear face masks, wash hand and may be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (65-years and over or those with high-risk health conditions) may choose not to attend Mass in person for their own safety.

If you test positive with COVID-19 within 14 days of Mass attendance, please notify the parish immediately.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

Baptisms of Infants: St. Elizabeth will begin scheduling the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please contact Fr. Thomas to schedule.

Anointing of the Sick: Holy Communion for the Sick and viaticum for the dying will only be distributed by priests. Priests will continue to minister to the sick where they are permitted.

First Holy Communion: Will be postponed until 2021 for the safety of our children and in order to celebrate the Sacrament with the gathered community. Families will be notified.

Funerals: Funerals are permitted under the following conditions:

A Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be celebrated with no more than 100 people present.

This number will be strictly enforced by the pastor, with the assistance of the funeral director.

All the present must wear masks.

Holy Communion will be distributed as normal, from the main aisle, but there will be only 1 single file line.

Holy Communion will be distributed ***only*** by the Host -- the Body of Christ.

The Precious Blood will ***not*** be offered to the congregation.

You may not receive communion wearing gloves

Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is required. (*Please, bring your own*).

No repast Meal, will be permitted.

PARISH OFFICE

The office will continue to remain semi-closed until further notice. Staff will continue to work from home as possible with some limited entry into the office as needed. Please call the church office 313-925-9221 with any pastoral needs or concerns.. You can always call Fr. Thomas at 313 831-1356.

May 13, 2020

Dear Parish Family:

On Tuesday, March 12, Archbishop Vigneron announced that public Masses could resume in the Archdiocese of Detroit, effective Tuesday, May 19. **St. Elizabeth will re-open on Sunday, May 31st** and will resume our normal Mass schedule of 12 noon, Sunday Mass.

In accordance with Executive Order by the Governor and with the guidance of the Archdiocese we will only be operating at 25% capacity, which will accommodate 60 people per Mass. *We will not have tickets to enter the church, but the enclosed guidelines will help you to understand the procedures that we have put in place to protect you and the parish staff during these uncertain times.*

Due to the social distancing, that will be around for some time, we have decided to close the Center for all functions and meetings for the time being.

We thank you for your unending support of the parish during these times. I am certain that our ministries near and far will be needed more than ever.

We invite you to continue your support of the parish through your giving. Tithes and other contribution can be sent to the parish via mail or in the offering box which will be located in the church.

Sincerely,

Fr. Norman P. Thomas, Pastor